



Dump the Water Campaign



West Nile virus was first detected in Suffolk County in 1999. Since then, the virus has spread to all parts of the country. In the year 2000, Suffolk County adopted a local law to inform residents on how best to stop the spread of West Nile virus. As part of that effort, the county created the annual Dump the Water campaign. This year, County Executive Steve Levy and members of the Suffolk County Legislature invited elementary level students to create posters that demonstrate how and why we need to Dump the Water.

The winning poster is used by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services as part of its West Nile Virus message each year.

SUFFOLK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES



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<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/healthservices>

Suffolk County

Department of Health Services



Poster by Ashley Barker, age 8,
grade 3, Birchwood Intermediate School,
South Huntington, NY

Dump the Water

2010 Campaign

How to Keep West Nile Virus from Spreading



West Nile virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito and can cause serious illness. Residents are advised to reduce mosquito breeding areas around

their homes and property to prevent the transmission of West Nile virus to people. After each rainfall, residents should eliminate standing water.

- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers.
- Remove all discarded tires on your property.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are kept outdoors.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Change the water in birdbaths.
- Clean vegetation and debris from edges of ponds.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- Check your property for trash. Even a bottle cap can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

How You Can Help Your Community

Encourage neighbors, local businesses and municipal agencies to **Dump the Water** by printing and distributing this brochure, which can be found on the Suffolk County Department of Health Services' web site: www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/health. You may also work with local service, labor, religious and fraternal organizations to promote community-wide clean-up drives.

For more information

For medical questions contact the department's Division of Public Health by calling 631-853-3055.

You may also wish to view the New York State Department of Health's website at:
www.health.state.ny.us

Or call the New York State Health Department's Environmental Health INFOLINE at 1-800-458-1158.



To report mosquito problems, you may contact the Suffolk County Department of Public Works' Division of Vector Control by calling 631-852-4270.